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A Year Later

[image]

It has been a year since Moonwatcher rejected Winter. It took him the whole year to recover enough to go back to Jade Mountain. When he landed at the front of the school, old memories flooded into his mind. The memories of leaving Jade Mountain and the memory of his father dying on the school grounds. Some of those memories he wanted to forget but it was impossible for him to do that. Then he saw familiar scales galloping toward him, they were a warm golden colour and bright yellow. Then Winter was pushed to the ground by the loving Kinkajou.

"WINTER!" Kinkajou yelled happily. Winter smiled at her.

"Hey, Kinkajou, nice to see you too," Winter beamed. Behind Kinkajou was Qibli trying to Kinkajou off Winter. When Winter was standing Qibli gave Winter a warm hug, it was warm because of his scales. In the shadows was Moonwatcher watching Qibli and Kinkajou with a hint of amusement.

"Hi Winter, I'm so happy you decided to come back to school," Moon smiled. Winter smiled back.

"I think I'm ready to restart as a new dragon," Winter replied. Moon just smiled. Then Turtle came and greeted Winter. Then Peril walked into the scene and had to force herself from not hugging Winter.

"I'm so glad you came, a lot has happened, Kinkajou and I are in a relationship right now," Turtle informed. "And Clay is slowly but surely going to ask Peril to be his girlfriend."

"Really!" Peril beamed. "Did he say that?"

"Well, no, but it is obvious, you guys are always going on flights and picnics and stuff so yeah," Turtle smiled at Peril's blindness. Peril jumped side ways and didn't mind to make it seem normal.

The winglet walked into the school and gave Winter all the gossip and information that he need to know. Qibli and Winter both went to their rooms and settled down.

"So, you and Moon?" Winter asked.

"Yeah," Qibli said nervously as if Winter was going to rip out his eyes.

"That makes sense, but I have moved on," Winter said while he was drawing the cave around him. Qibli looked relieved but didn't push it. They both got their scrolls then Winter was shocked. He wasn't in the Jade Winglet and worst of all, he wasn't in any winglet.

"I-I got to go," Winter gasped. Winter raced into the hall and pushed past all the students in the hall. Finally he got to Sunny's room and pounded on the door until she opened it up. Sunny looked startled when Winter pushed the winglet form in her face. "Sunny! I'm not in any winglet!"

"Oh, Winter, we didn't know you were coming so we just put a SandWing hybrid as your substitute," Sunny explained.

"But that hybrid isn't even an IceWing!" Winter argued.

"Look, now that you're here you can join the Jade Winglet but we have to keep her in the winglet," Sunny explained. Winter nodded solemnly.

"Thanks Sunny," Winter thanked. Winter walked in the hall and saw that there were couples every where. *Look at them,* Winter thought. *I promise that I would never fall in love with someone unless it is the true dragon that I want to love*.

Winter walked into the prey centre and bumped into someone. "Oh, my moons, I'm so sorry," said a bell like voice. Winter looked up and saw a gorgeous SandWing, but she didn't look like a SandWing she had no poisonous barb nor did she look pale yellow. She had hints of red on her body and orange eyes instead of black. She was an elegant dragon and clearly everyone liked her. Winter didn't notice that she splattered juice all over his scales. The SandWing

hybrid walked to the counter to get tissues and started to wipe Winter's chest. Winter blushed hard when he saw every dragon look his way.

"It's fine," Winter muttered. Winter walked to the counter and grabbed tissues to help clean the floor.

"I'm sorry, I'm new here," the beautiful SandWing hybrid apologised. "Hi, I'm Sapphire." Sapphire looked at Winter expectantly for him to say something. *What was she asking? Right my name.*

"Um, W-Winter," Winter introduced. In the far side of the cave Qibli started to snicker as Winter stammered.

"Nice to meet you," Sapphire smiled. "I hope we are in the same winglet, I would love to get to know you." With that she left Winter staring after her in awe. Qibli walked over to Winter and waved his talon in front of his face.

"Winter?" Qibli said cautiously. *What the heck just happened? I was just stiff. I'm never stiff, IceWing Princes don't stammer. Come on Winter!* Winter thought. He was confused. He never felt that before. Not with Moon or with Lynx. So what the heck?

"Y-Yeah?" Winter snapped back to reality.

"You were stammering," Qibli grinned.

"I beg your pardon?" Winter said nervously. "IceWing Princes don't stammer."

"Yeah, IceWing Princes don't stammer, but you aren't a Prince anymore so, yeah," Qibli grinned grew bigger. Winter blushed and walked away.

"You like her," Qibli stated.

"I most certainly do not!" Winter protested. But what if Qibli was right, Winter did certainly feel different around Sapphire. Maybe deep down, Qibli was right. Maybe Winter did like Sapphire.

Jade Winglet

Winter walked into the history cave and saw that all his friends were already there. But what surprised him the most was that he saw Sapphire sitting in the middle of the cave. Winter felt stiff again, but then ignored everyone in the room except Sapphire. When she smiled at him, he smiled back. She motioned for him to sit next to her. Winter crossed the cave toward her and sat down.

"Sorry about earlier," Sapphire whispered.

"It's fine," Winter whispered back. "It happens."

"Wow, you really have changed," Sapphire commented. Winter tried to not look hurt, "Sunny told me to watch out because I'll never know when you'll snap."

"Wait, you tested me?" Winter squinted. Sapphire nodded her head. "You are dangerous, Sapphire," Winter joked. But Sapphire took it to literally. She looked down at her talons in despair. "I was joking."

"Oh," Sapphire slightly smiled. But then a familiar feeling came off her like a magic potion. Winter lingered closer to her to know what it felt like, then it hit him, it was magic. Winter looked at her with a shock expression. He looked at Qibli but he couldn't help but notice Moon's shocked face.

"You're an Animus," Winter whispered in Sapphire's ear.

"What!" Sapphire said a little to loudly. "What?" Sapphire said quietly. "I'm not."

"Don't lie," Winter warned. "I have a friend who can tell me if your lying." He motioned toward Moon.

"What are you going to do to me?" Sapphire asked worriedly.

"Nothing, why would you think that?" Winter asked. Sapphire

looked away and didn't look at Winter in the eyes.

"The way you reacted when Moon told you her gifts," Sapphire whispered. Winter was hurt, he was hurt that people still judged him because of what he did when he was a jerk. *Maybe this is what Peril feels like all the time*, Winter thought. Winter was also hurt that Sapphire didn't trust him that much.

"I won't ever react that way again," Winter promised. Sapphire faced Winter with eyes full of hope. Winter looked into her eyes, he noticed how her eyes were so strange but beautiful at the same time. He also notice how this action made his heart skip a beat. They were gazing into each other's eyes for so long they didn't hear Clay ask Sapphire a question.

"Ahem," Clay coughed. Winter and Sapphire broke their gaze reluctantly. "Winter, Sapphire, I know that meeting new dragons is an amazing experience. But, can you please focus?" Clay asked. Winter and Sapphire both blushed and looked away. "Sapphire, can you tell us about yourself?"

Sapphire got up, "I'm a SkyWing-SandWing hybrid. I like to read and draw. I don't like to do math. But I love to learn about Scavengers." Winter looked up at her in awe.

"Did you just fell from heaven?" Winter murmured out loud. Sapphire blushed at his comment.

"No, but thank you for the compliment," Sapphire grinned. Winter looked flustered and embarrassed at the same time. Winter glanced at Qibli and Winter saw that Qibli was grinning at him and Sapphire. In that moment, Winter knew that his SandWing friend wasn't going to let this slide. Winter faced Sapphire as she sat down again,

"Well, anyone want to go hunting? I'm starving," Clay said hungrily. Peril giggled silently. When everyone looked at her, she made a face that said that she always silent giggle. Clay walked over to Peril and she walked over to him and twined her tail with his. They walked out of the cave and flew away with Turtle and Kinkajou right behind them. Then after Turtle and Kinkajou, the new MudWing

went. The last dragons there were Sapphire, Winter, Qibli, and Moon. They stood there awkwardly until Qibli walked up to Sapphire.

"Hi, I'm Qibli, Winter's most adored friend in the whole world," Qibli said dramatically.

"I do not adore you," Winter snapped. Qibli shrugged. But all Sapphire did was laugh. Moon watched Sapphire with a curious glare. Qibli noticed first but when Qibli's attention went to Moon, it usually meant that it was Winter's turn to back off. Sapphire was laughing until she was pushed to the other side of the cave with an invisible force. Winter ran over to her and Moon was pushed to the other side of the cave with the same invisible force. Qibli ran to Moon.

"Are you okay?" Winter asked Sapphire. She shook her head from side to side. Sapphire glared at Moon with a terrified glance. Winter looked at what Sapphire was looking at.

"I gotta get out of here," Sapphire said. With that she got up and flew up with the others.

"What happened?" Winter asked. "Why was Sapphire looking at Moon with a terrified look?"

"I-I don't know," Moon stammered. She got up and dusted off her scales. Qibli helped her get up. "But what I do know is that there is another Prophecy,

Up in the Sky

In the Mountains

There is a powerful force

A force full of fire and destruction

Beware of the claws

Beware of the talons of fire

Beware a traitor among you

Beware of long lost foe

Search through what you know

Search among you

Search the mountains

Search and you find

Mercy or Justice

That is something the creature of it's kind should choose. " Moon scattered.

"ANOTHER PROPHECY!" Winter bellowed. "Again! I thought we were done with prophecies and death!"

"I agree with the chilly prince here," Qibli agreed. "How do we know that we are the ones that will stop this thing we're supposed to find." Moon rolled her eyes and showed Qibli her vision. "Yup. It defiantly is us." Moon walked over to Winter and pressed her palm against his head. He saw his Winglet flying to the mountains and he saw dead bodies of SkyWings everywhere. He saw fire and burning.

"Do you think it's Peril?" Winter asked.

"Maybe?" Qibli shrugged. "She was the talons of fire last time."

"No, Peril is good now, all the way," Moon paced the cave. "There's got to be a reason why there is fire other than Peril." Winter shook his head and started to fly.

"Where are you going?" Qibli asked.

"To go get food, I'm hungry and I'm not going to solve any prophecies on an empty stomach," Winter argued. He followed the group around the mountains and tried to get a cow. He caught one and flew back to the Prey Centre. When he came back he sat next to Qibli, Moon, Turtle, Kinkajou, the new MudWing, known as Bear,

and Peril. Winter sat down and saw that Sapphire was coming toward them.

"Hey, can I sit next you guys?" Sapphire asked."It's pretty lonely on the other side of the Centre."

"Yeah, sure," Winter smiled. Sapphire sat next to Winter but kept a clear distance away from Moon. "Are you okay? You left in a rush in the history cave," Winter asked as he ate the thigh of the cow.

"Yeah, I just had a head ache," Sapphire lied. She ate her bull in silence.

"Hey, if you wouldn't mind, I would like to talk to the whole winglet in my sleeping cave," Moon told her friends.

"I don't mind," Bear stated.

"Uh...sorry...I-" She was cut off by a sad face from Winter. "You know what, I guess I'm free."

"Great, because we need to talk," Moon told them.

"Oh no," Peril groaned. "Not another prophecy."

"Peril, shush!" Moon shushed. Peril was quiet. "You can't tell anyone and also it involves you. Like a lot." Peril went stiff and she nodded her head. Winter was suspicious of Peril but he knew that Peril was innocent. But why was there so much fire in Moon's vision? Why was Sapphire so scared of Moon?

Moon's Sleeping Cave

[image]

Sapphire's POV

Sapphire slowly walked down toward Moon's sleeping cave. She never went into somebody else's sleeping cave. Sapphire's clawmate was a very grumpy one and she was a SkyWing that hated hybrids so Sapphire was thankful that she was going to miss her clawmate's grumpy stare. But Sapphire was not happy about going toward Moon. After Sapphire felt the invisible force pull Sapphire away from Moon, she never went close to Moon again. Sapphire was different from other animuses. She only NightWings had this power but apparently so did SkyWing-SandWing hybrids. Sapphire had to power to predict the future and have animus powers. Which was confusing to her but that was the truth. So, when Sapphire knew that Moon could read minds and see the future, that scared Sapphire to the bone. But she wanted to be with Winter and if he was in Moon's sleeping cave then that was were she was going to go.

Winter's POV

Winter looked at the entrance of the sleeping cave as he waited for Sapphire. Then as if his prayers have been answered, Sapphire walked in the room. She eyed Moon for a bit then walked to Winter. She sat next to him, Winter was confused. Wasn't she cold? Because that was all Winter could give her, freezing cold temperature.

"Aren't you cold?" Winter asked.

"No," Sapphire smiled. Her warm wings brushed his and he felt the warm sensation of her scales against his. Winter smiled but caught the glances of his friends.

"So, what's this prophecy?" Peril asked. Moon glanced at Sapphire and Bear with nervous glances.

"Um, I have to tell them my powers," Moon mumbled. "I can see the future and...read minds." To everyone's surprise, Bear and Sapphire were extremely calm.

"Cool," was all Bear would say. Sapphire didn't say anything, she just nodded her head.

Moon sighed in relief, "Here's the prophecy,

Up in the Sky

In the Mountains

There is a powerful force

A force full of fire and destruction

Beware of the claws

Beware of the talons of fire

Beware a traitor among you

Beware of long lost foe

Search through what you know

Search among you

Search the mountains

Search and you find

Mercy or Justice

That is something the creature of it's kind should choose," Moon told them in the creepy voice. But the scary thing was that she wasn't the only one that said it in a creepy voice. Sapphire was saying the prophecy words with Moon in sync. She said exactly the way Moon said and their mouths moved the same way. When they were finished speaking the whole room looked at Sapphire.

"Can you s-see the future?" Moon asked. Sapphire nodded solemnly.

"That...makes...SO MUCH SCENSE!" Moon exclaimed. "That explains why you didn't want to be around me and near me."

Winter stared in disbelief at his new friend. She could see the future too? Why was Winter so attracted to mysterious and powerful dragons! "Can we get back to the prophecy?" Winter asked.

"So, you think I'm the murderer in the prophecy," Peril scoffed. "Typical." Winter was so confused.

"No," Moon said.

"Well, they did say that there was going to be a traitor," Winter snapped. But it could also be Sapphire or Bear.

"I'm not the bad guy!" Peril tried to convince them. "Trust me, do you think I would kill now?" Everyone didn't talk. "That's what I thought."

"Then how do we stop this?" Moon asked.

"We don't, we wait until it becomes serious," Bear spoke up. Everyone nodded at his wisdom.

"I agree," Sapphire said. She peaked at Winter but he didn't look at her back. It was to painful.

"Then we wait until it becomes serious, in the mean time, Peril, Turtle, and Winter are in charge of eavesdropping," Qibli ordered. Winter, Peril, and Turtle nodded. When they said goodnight, Sapphire caught up to Winter and tried to stop him from leaving.

"Winter, Wait!" Sapphire called.

"What for?" Winter growled.

"You promised that you wouldn't act like this," Sapphire cried. Winter turned to face her.

"You lied to me," Winter snapped.

"I didn't lie, I just didn't tell you about my other power," Sapphire

told him. There was a pause. "You know what, I thought you changed, but clearly you haven't." Sapphire turned to walk away and she didn't look back.

"Wait," Winter whispered to the empty cave. Winter turned to walk toward his sleeping cave and when he got there he avoided Qibli's questions and went to sleep. Winter couldn't believe he broke his promise to the one dragon he cared more about than Moon. *I'm such and Igloo Face!*

The Big News

Today was the day that Winter would say sorry to Sapphire, it's been two days since their fight in the hallway. During this time, no one was talking about things that happened in the Sky Kingdom and in classes Sapphire would avoid Winter as much as possible. So, Winter was going to say sorry. Maybe Sapphire would say sorry for not telling Winter that she could see the future. As Winter made his way down the hall, he heard crying. Winter turned and walked to the sound. And there he found lying on the floor sobbing was Sapphire. She lifted up her head and when she saw Winter she wiped her tears and turned to face a different direction but her tears kept coming. Winter walked over to her and out one wing around her. Sapphire kept on crying as if Winter wasn't there.

"I'm sorry," Winter apologised. "I broke my promise, I was just confused and stressed." Sapphire looked into his eyes. Winter had missed this, he missed the gazes of Sapphire's beautiful eyes.

"I'm sorry too," Sapphire apologised. "I didn't treat you fairly, I was also wrong, I didn't tell you about my ability and then when you need the comfort, I pushed you away."

"I forgive you," Winter forgave.

"I forgive you too," Sapphire smiled. Winter and Sapphire hugged and they stayed in that position for a while. Winter stared at Sapphire with his eyes saying, 'I-I like you, and I'll protect you.' But Sapphire's eyes said. 'Thank you, for everything you done for me'. They were quiet for a bit until they heard talon scraps on the hard cold stone floor. There was more than four talons about eight.

"Peril, I brought you over here because I have to tell you something," Clay's voice said. Winter and Sapphire hid behind a rock and waited for Peril's response.

"Anything," Peril said.

"Remember when you told me about Moon's new prophecy?" Clay reminded Peril.

"Yes," Peril said nervously.

"Well...I just found out that there have been killings of innocent dragons," Clay told Peril. Peril gasped and fell on the floor. "They asked for me, Sunny, and Tsunami to come look at the bodies." Clay wrapped his wing around Peril, "Queen Ruby thinks that you should come help with investigating the bodies."

Peril shook her head, "I can't, I have to tell Moon and the rest of the Jade Winglet. Apparently only the Jade Winglet can stop this creature."

"Okay," Clay agreed. "I'll tell you when I'm leaving." Clay got up and he walked out of the cave. Winter and Sapphire got out of their hiding spots and saw Peril on the floor covering her face with her wings.

"Noooo," Peril groaned. "The Prophecy can't be about me because I didn't do anything."

"Maybe it's about someone else?" Sapphire suggested. Peril shook her head.

"WHO ELSE HAS TALONS OF FIRE? Hello anyone?" Peril yelled. Sapphire shook her head and yawned so her ears would pop.

"Did you kill those dragons?" Winter asked. Peril shook her head. "Then you aren't the dragon that the prophecy was talking about."

"Thanks Winter."

"No problem," Winter said. Peril got up and started to walk out of the cave.

"I have to tell Moon," Peril hinted. "Any idea where she'll be?"

"The Library," Winter said immediately. He may not be her boyfriend but Winter will always assume that if you want to find Moonwatcher then check all the libraries in the area.

"Well, see ya later," Peril smiled. She walked off and went to search for Moon. Winter and Sapphire walked to the prey centre and as they walked they both wondered when they'll leave Jade Mountain and if it was safe doing so.

The Mountains

[image]

Winter and Sapphire walked down the hall together after they ate. As they walked, Winter was wondering about Sapphire's family. "How is your family?" Winter asked.

Sapphire hesitated, "Are you trying to ask me how my parents met?" Winter nodded his head. "Well, It's actually a sad story."

"You wanna bet?" Winter remembered things when he was a little dragonet.

"Oh really?" Sapphire grinned.

"Yeah," Winter grinned back. Sapphire chuckled.

"Before I was born my mom was going to Burn's stronghold to fix the doors," Sapphire informed. They turned on the left. "When she was finished, a SkyWing came to her and took advantage of her." Winter looked at her with sympathy in his face. Sapphire didn't look at Winter. "When she found out she was with egg, she left the kingdom and flew to the mountains."

"You were raised in the mountains?" Winter asked. Sapphire nodded her head. "Wow," Winter sighed. Sapphire and Winter went into Moon's sleeping cave. Nobody was there.

"What about you?" Sapphire asked.

"What about me?" Winter asked as he laid on the floor. They waited for the group to come.

"You know, what makes your story sadder than mine?" Sapphire asked.

"My parents would judge me because I wasn't like my siblings," Winter sighed. "Last year my dad died in front of me."

"Wow, that is sad," Sapphire brushed her wing against his.

"Eh, I got over it, How did you find out that you were an animus?" Winter asked, changing the subject.

"I was watching other animus dragons do their magic and I wanted to do the same thing. I enchanted a rock and then it worked," Sapphire told him. Winter nodded his head then he heard talons scuffling on the cold stone floor. It was Moon and Peril, they walked in and saw Winter and Sapphire there.

"Hey guys," Moon greeted. "Peril just told me so I guess we have to go stop this thing." Qibli walked in and wrapped his wing around Moon. Then Turtle and Kinkajou walked in. Then Bear walked in too. They all sat down but Peril kept on pacing.

"How are we going to stop this?" Peril asked. She kept on pacing and everyone watched her with a worried glance. They worried that she was going to get so upset that she'll burn something.

"Here it is again,

Up in the Sky

In the Mountains

There is a powerful force

A force full of fire and destruction

Beware of the claws

Beware of the talons of fire

Beware a traitor among you

Beware of long lost foe

Search through what you know

Search the among you

Search the mountains

Search and you find

Mercy or Justice

That is something the creature of it's kind should choose," Sapphire told them. Moon said it to at the same time.

"So, we have to search the Sky Kingdom," Qibli commented.

"And the mountains," Bear agreed. "So, we gotta move now."

"I agree with Bear," Peril agreed. "We have to go now so we could stop whoever is killing these dragons." Everyone nodded their head.

"We leave tonight," Moon said.

"How do we know that we aren't going into a trap?" Winter asked. It seems logical that dragons should know if they're flying into a trap.

"You don't," Peril tried to comfort Winter. But it wasn't comforting. Peril received a look from Turtle telling her that her statement wasn't comforting. "I-I mean you won't know but it is something we have to risk." Everyone gaped. "What?"

"You said something actually reassuring," Turtle smiled. "I'm so proud of you!" Turtle went over to Peril and hugged her. Peril chuckled and looked over Turtle.

"I guess we have to go," Peril sighed.

"I guess we do," Bear sighed. "We gotta pack." With that they separated and went to go pack a few things for the road.

Peril's POV

Peril was walking down the hall in the night; she was searching for Clay. He said that he would tell her when he was going to go. But Peril was leaving sooner than Clay so she would have to say goodbye to him. She walked to his sleeping cave and knocked on the stone boulder. It hissed but didn't melt completely.

"Come in," Clay said. Peril walked in and Clay's face beamed with

joy. She knew that he was always happy but she hope she wasn't imagining the more joy that he had when she walked in. "Peril!"

"Hey, Clay," Peril waved. Clay walked over to her and hugged her. Peril somehow didn't burst into dancing flames by this action. "I have to tell you something."

"Sure anything," Clay smiled.

"I'm going to go find the dragon that is killing the SkyWings," Peril told him all about the meeting in Moon's sleeping cave. Clay nodded through Peril's story. "So, do you think I should?"

"I think you should go, if you can help stop this then I think it will be a good thing," Clay smiled at her. "Just come by the Sky Palace, maybe I can help you."

"Thanks Clay," Peril hugged him again. Clay hugged back, they stayed like this for a while but Peril reluctantly pulled away. "Do you think that I killed them?" Peril asked nervously.

"No, I don't think you did," Clay put a wing around her. "You don't kill anymore."

"Thanks, because all I get from my winglet is worried glances. It's as if they don't trust me anymore, even after all we've been through together," Peril sighed. Clay pulled her closer to him.

"Hey, when they find out who really killed the SkyWings your friends won't think that anymore," Clay told her. Peril leaned on his shoulder.

"But, in the prophecy, it said that the murder's own kind shall decide wither to give mercy or justice to the murder," Peril looked up and Clay was staring off into space. "Clay?" Peril asked nervously.

"Hmm?" Clay said.

Peril sighed in relief, "I thought you were in trouble."

"Peril," Clay said.

"Yes?" Peril asked.

"I know I'm leaving in a few hours but...would you consider...I don't know...maybe...being my girlfriend?" Clay asked shyly.

"Yes, I thousand times yes," Peril got up and hugged Clay so hard. Clay laughed and hugged her back. "I've been waiting for you to ask me that for two years now."

"Me too," Clay sighed. "I'll miss you."

"I'll miss you too," Peril smiled. They stayed this way for about an hour, during that hour Peril felt like the happiest dragon in the world. She got up. "I got to go."

"Okay, bye," Clay watched her go out of his sleeping gave and then sighed.

Winter's POV

They all met at the entrance of the Academy, Sapphire wore the school bag that held her library card and her map. Winter wore the same thing with same things in it. Sapphire walked to him and twined her tail around his. He let her. Moon and Qibli had their tails twined with each other's tails. Turtle and Kinkajou had their tails twined together and Bear looked sad as he saw all the Jade Winglet next to their friends. But Bear looked liked he missed someone. Peril on the other talon had a mix of emotions. She looked sad but at the same time, happy, excited, and joyful all tat the same time.

"What's with the smile?" Turtle asked Peril.

"Nothing," Peril scrunched up her snout to stop her smiling but the smile kept coming out. "I'm Clay's girlfriend!" Peril squealed.

"I'm happy for you," Turtle smiled.

"Thanks, but Clay's going to be at the Sky Kingdom while we are searching for the dragon that is killing the SkyWings," Peril sighed.

"Don't worry you'll be able to see him again," Sapphire smiled. She

brushed Peril's wing with her own. Peril jumped away from Sapphire. "Don't worry, my scales are fireproof," Sapphire assured. Peril let out a relieved sigh.

"What other things are you hiding?" Winter teased.

"Nothing else except my family," Sapphire grinned.

"Can we get on with the mission?" Bear asked, he sounded awfully annoyed at all the happiness around him.

"Yeah," Moon agreed. "We should head to the Claws of the Clouds Mountains."

"Shouldn't we check with Queen Ruby first?" Winter wondered.

"Please?" Peril nodded happily.

"Let's just start heading toward the Claws of the Clouds Mountains first," Moon said. Winter sighed but spread his wings and started to fly up. Sapphire was right behind him. The winglet flew off into the sunset and didn't look back at their school.

"Twice now I've done this, Thorn is going to kill me," Qibli commented.

"You can say that again," Moon laughed.

"Yup," Winter, Turtle, and Kinkajou said. They flew off into the sunset.

Should We, Or Should We Not?

The grumpy IceWing prince shook his head rapidly. *What are those Icicle Heads thinking!* The memory of all those innocent dragons dying of flames washed over Winter's brain. Sapphire looked up, concerned. *Maybe she was reading my mind. Wait can she do that*, the chilly prince thought as he wrapped his tail around hers, carefully avoiding to poke her gorgeous scales. *I really need to stop falling for the girls who can read minds and see the future,* Winter shuddered and frowned.

"I'm sorry is our Winglet as stupid as I thought or is it just me?" Winter growled, stopping his feet.

"Winter, Moon thinks it's best that we go to the Sky Kingdom," Qibli said, trying to defend Moonwatcher. The Jade Winglet was in the forest now, trying to decide where to go. The main question was should they go to the mountains or should they go to the Sky Kingdom. Winter personally thought that the group should head to the Mountains and search from there. However, the crazy couple thought otherwise.

"I don't really care! Moon, you do realize that if we go to the Sky Palace we will have to tell Queen Ruby what we are trying to find. Which will then lead her to suspect that Peril is the one who is causing all this death!" Winter tried to reason with the beautiful NightWing. Peril looked up from her talon, which she was using to burn a perfectly beautiful flower, and faked smiled at me.

"Aw, you really do care don't you, Icykins," Peril said, rolling her eyes. Her sarcasm was clearly there. "Listen, I don't mind going to the Sky Palace. I can convince Queen Ruby that I had nothing to do with the deaths of the SkyWings," Peril said.

"See, she says she's fine with it. So, can we PLEASE go to Sky Palace?" Turtle whined. "My wings are starting to hurt." Kinkajou smiled kindly at Turtle and snuggled her snout against his neck. The SeaWing prince smiled shyly.

"Oh please, you only want to go to the Sky Palace because Clay is there!" Winter shouted. Peril scoffed three times but then looked away. "And you Mr. I'm-as-lazy-as-my-girlfriend has to deal with flying! You wanted to go on this adventure so now you have to deal with the consequences!" He barked at Turtle. This startled everyone, well not everyone just Turtle, Kinkajou, Bear, and Sapphire.

"Hey! I am NOT lazy!" Kinkajou growled. "You IceWings think that everydragon is below you! Well, guess what Winter, I'm just as useful as you because we are all the same!"

"Pft, please, the last time I checked, I was actually friends with the Queen of my tribe!" Winter shot, rolling his eyes. "Moons, related!"

Kinkajou's scales turned from yellow to red as fast as lightning and she started to growl. The only thing that stopped her from spraying her venom on Winter was Turtle's talons. "I am phe queenfs pfriend!" Kinkajou said through Turtle's talons.

"Winter, maybe you are overreacting a little bit," Moon said, trying to calm things down. And trust him, things were not going to calm down so easily.

"Overreacting!" Winter bellowed. "I am not overreacting! I'm just stating the obvious! I think we should go to the mountains where the prophecy told us to look!" Moon grimaced and looked down at the floor.

"Seems like you're overreacting now," Moon muttered.

"Excuse me!" Winter raged.

"Winter you need to calm down!" Qibli growled. "Do you really want to go back to being the worst dragon in the group?!"

Winter scoffed. "*Worst dragon in the group*. That's not me, that's that monster that you recruited when I was gone on my mission!"

"I'll show you monster-" Peril growled about to jump on Winter.

"Alright, Alright!" Sapphire yelled. The group immediately stopped talking and stared at Sapphire. The young hybrid cleared her throat

and sat down. "We will go to the Sky Palace and talk to Queen Ruby. She must have something to tell us. Until then, you guys will NOT fight," she growled. "OR I SWEAR, I WILL DRAG ALL OF YOU BY YOUR EARS TO THE PALACE MYSELF AND YOU KNOW I CAN DO IT!" The Winglet sighed and nodded. "Good. Now, will someone please tell me where Bear went?"

"What do you mean? Bear has been here the whole time," Turtle puzzled. Turtle turned his head but the only thing that was next to him was a patch of grass. There was no male MudWing next to him. "Let me rephrase that...he *used* to be here..." Turtle said, trailing off.

Now the only question that was left with Jade Winglet was: Why did Bear leave and where did he go? "Well, I guess we have to put a pin in the going to the Sky Palace idea," Winter commented.

"Aw!" Peril groaned. "Stupid Bear, of all the times to run off you choose now?!"

Salvia Divinorum

[image]

Talon steps echoed throughout the forest. Six dragonets raced through the tall trees while one flew in the sky so she doesn't set the forest on fire. Although, the idea wouldn't be so bad. If the Jade Winglet wanted to find Bear then setting the place on fire wouldn't be a bad idea. You know, since he would have to fly away to get out of the fire.

However, Winter doubted Sapphire or Moon would like it if Peril set the forest on fire. So, he was in a group with Sapphire, running around searching for the missing MudWing. As they ran through the forest, Sapphire kept looking at the trees. But something told Winter that she wasn't focusing on the trees.

Concerned, Winter bumped his wing against hers. The warmth of her sandy wings sent a chill down his frosty spin. Sapphire's orange eyes stared deep into his blue ones. Although Sapphire's stance was normal, her eyes told him that she was thinking Bear was suspicious. "What's wrong?" he asked, not wanting to jump to conclusions.

"Uh..." Sapphire trailed off. "Tired!" she shouted.

He jumped back in surprise and frowned. "Geez, you definitely didn't scare the moons out of me!" Winter barked. Sapphire looked down to hide her guilt. The way her snout was pointed to the grass, Winter couldn't help but feel terrible. "Uh...sorry...I'm still kinda getting used to this nice business," he apologized.

"It's fine," she whispered as she sat down. Once Sapphire was on the floor, she placed her tail in her hands nervously. She turned her head so he wouldn't see her crying. *Well, it's a little too late for that*, Winter thought. *What am I thinking?! Sapphire obviously needs someone to hold her.* Winter sat down next to her, his wings twitching with anticipation. *But...what if...she figures out that I like her?*

Then Winter immediately thought of Qibli and Turtle. One of them would say something like, *don't be a coward! Hold her! Let her know that you got her back.* He shook the thought out of his head and hesitantly wrapped his wings around her.

He felt her shiver once their scales made contact and a sudden pang of guilt hit his chest. But once those gorgeous eyes looked into his, Winter felt like all the problems of the world were gone. Sapphire scooted closer to him and laid her head on his broad shoulders. Winter never found himself as the nervous dragon in the group, he left that job for Turtle. But now, he was thinking of changing his job to lovesick dragon instead of the fierce warrior.

"Winter..." Sapphire paused, "I have thought about the prophecy for a while now..." *And there goes 'all the problems of the world are gone' feeling,* Winter thought angrily. "Do you think Bear is the traitor?"

"Well...maybe?" Winter said, shrugging. "Any dragon can be the traitor...moons, *I* can be the traitor!"

Sapphire let out a small but REALLY cute laugh. *What am I thinking? IceWings and SandWings don't fall in love! They don't become friends,* Winter thought, ashamed. *Then what is Qibli? Is he my friend? Of course! Then why can't she be my friend?* "True, true," Sapphire laughed.

"Who knows, maybe Kinkajou could be the traitor," Winter joked. He was starting to like this version of Sapphire and not the Sapphire that worried all the time.

The beautiful hybrid let out a huge laugh and even snorted. Winter laughed along with her, not even bothering that Qibli, Moon, Turtle, and Kinkajou were walking towards them. Sapphire had this adorable laugh that just made him want to hug a panda. "We should probably stop laughing," Winter laughed, wiping a happy tear.

Sapphire nodded but then looked at Winter. Suddenly she burst into giggles and so did Winter. What was wrong with them? Why were they laughing so much? "Remember that time when we fought and I walked away?" Sapphire asked, laughing.

"YEAH!" Winter cried, laughing. "Remember the time when you were afraid of Moon?" Winter asked. Sapphire nodded, still laughing like a manic.

They were laughing so hard that they started to hallucinate flying Scavengers and talking animals. But the two dragons didn't care. They just stood up and started dancing to whatever song that came into mind. They were having the best time of their lives that they didn't notice that they were being pulled away from each other.

"Quick!" someone shouted. "Get them some water!" Two dragons rushed to go get some water. Winter, who was disoriented, didn't know where he was or who was protecting him. Some dragon stared Winter straight in the eye.

"You look pretty," Winter hiccuped.

The dragon started to chuckle and shake their head. "Sorry bro, I'm taken and I'm a guy," said the male dragon. He had pale yellow scales and black eyes. *Where the moons am I?*

"Potato, Tomato," Winter grunted. "Or was it Potato, Mushroom?" Suddenly Winter started to laugh. "Potato, Mushroom!" he laughed.

"Yeah, somebody bring Winter some water!" the SandWing ordered. Then a green dragon came and poured the bucket on Winter. "Not ON him!" groaned the SandWing. And that was the last thing he heard before he blacked out.

Stupid Friends

Winter groaned and blinked his eyes weakly. Laying down next to him was Sapphire. Her golden scales were shining brightly in the sunlight. Look at her. What a gorgeous dragon. He doesn't just like her because of how beautiful she is. Winter liked her because she is so kind and smart.

"Hey there buddy," Qibli's voice said as he walked toward him. Winter made a groan and sat up. "Do I still look pretty?" the goofy SandWing grinned.

"We...will *never* mention that anyone..." Winter growled, "understood?"

"Oh, you have my word," Qibli said, crossing his heart. Winter rolled his eyes but walked up to Sapphire, tempting to shake her awake. "Actually, I wouldn't do that," the SandWing warned.

"Oh please, how bad can she be," Winter muttered as he started to shake her awake. Instead of getting an awake Sapphire, he got smacked in the face with her warm wing.

"Told you," Qibli murmured. Winter growled but walked away. "Hey, Moon," he smiled.

"Hey you," Moon smiled back. The cold prince rolled his eyes but drank some water. "Turtle and Kinkajou are going to get some food," Moonwatcher informed Qibli. *Hello? I'm right here,* Winter thought as he drank water. "Hi, Winter," Moon said.

"Good morning Moon," he replied.

"How was...your sleep?" Moon wondered as she followed me into the woods with Qibli. "Was it...nice?" she grinned. Winter frowned. What was she talking about? Was she delusional? "Did you and Sapphire do anything?"

Winter turned around. "What do you mean?" Moon snickered.

"What Moon means to say is..." Qibli trailed off, trying to find the right words.

"Well?"

"Um..let me just say it," Qibli snickered. "'Oh Sapphire! You complete me!'" Qibli said dramatically. "'And um, I just want to say that...that...I love you!'" Qibli walked to a different side. "' I love you too, Winter!'" he said in a high pitched voice. Then Qibli started to make kissing noises.

"Okay, okay, STOP!" Winter said, embarssed. (did I spell that right?) "I didn't really dream that...right?"

"Oh you SO did," Qibli laughed with Moon. "You know you are on a roll here, you know, doing embarrassing things."

"What do you mean?" Moon asked.

"Oh, right, I didn't tell you," Qibli stated.

"No!" Winter urged.

"Winter said I was pretty yesterday," Qibli smiled.

Moon looked up at Winter then burst into giggles. "I was delusional at the time," Winter muttered. Moon still laughed. *Ugh...friends...*

The Boarder He Didn't Want To Cross

"We can't find Bear," Turtle gasped. He laid down on the floor like a tired dragonet. Winter sighed in disappointment. *I guess we're going to the Sky Kingdom*, Winter thought coldly. Winter wondered why he was even hanging out with these Icicle Heads. He didn't understand why his friends wouldn't search the mountains first!

Peril was next to Turtle scanning the forest even if Turtle just checked it. "Yeah," Peril murmured. "Suspicious isn't it?"

"Why do you say that?" Sapphire asked. It has been an hour since Sapphire woke up with blush on her scales. Winter woke her up and told her what happened the other night. Sapphire couldn't stop blushing.

"Don't you find it suspicious that Bear decided to leave right when we were fighting, leaving no note or trace of where to find him?" Peril asked, prying. What was Peril up to? Winter realized what Peril was doing. She was testing Sapphire to see if she was the traitor. Fear flooded into Winter's frosty eyes. He had to do something.

"I find it suspicious but don't you find it suspicious that the Prophecy said, 'Beware the talons of fire' again?" Winter snapped, protecting Sapphire. The young hybrid looked up at Winter grateful and Peril looked at Winter with sadness in her eyes. *Sorry, Peril...I had to protect Sapphire*, Winter thought apologetically. *Let's just hope it was worth it.*

"Hey, the prophecy said 'Search among yourselves' I was just doing that," Peril huffed.

"Okay, let's not be rude to each other any longer," Kinkajou peeped. "We have somewhere to be."

"Right! Kinkajou is right!" Qibli said. "Since we can't find Bear, we will head to the Sky Kingdom and ask Queen Ruby about the killings."

"Fine!" Winter growled. The group of friends turned around and started to fly. Peril was the first one in the air. Her large wings caught the air's current in no time. All Peril had to do was flap her wings every once and a while then she'll be on her way. Turtle was next, obviously, he was groaning about how much he hates flying. Kinkajou laughed with him and took off into the sky. Moon and Qibli were next, they took off into the sky with their tails twined. Winter tried not to get jealous but it was so hard.

"Hey, um, meet you in the sky?" Sapphire wondered. Winter smiled. *Not jealous anymore*, he thought.

"Where else will I meet you? The ocean?" Winter chortled. Sapphire laughed with him and brushed her wings against his. This left a tingling feeling on the brim of his wings. Sapphire smiled again then took off into the sky.

Why was I ever jealous, Winter thought as he took off. *Sure it hurt when Moon chose Qibli but all I had to do was meet a new dragon who was better than Moon...Sapphire is my new Moon.* Winter side glanced at Sapphire, he saw how she took a deep breath to breathe in the warm, fresh smell of dawn. Winter watched as the sun's warm glow rested perfectly on Sapphire. The glow of the sun made Sapphire look like an actual jewel.

She looked healthy.

More healthy than she'll ever be if she was with me, Winter thought sadly. *No. Don't think that way. This is probably just a crush, I probably won't marry her. And if I did Qibli wouldn't let me hear the end of it.* Winter shuddered. Even thinking about Qibli saying how they were now like brothers made Winter want to die.

"Hey, Winter, watch this," Sapphire whispered. She started to mutter something. Then all of a sudden stars started to appear on the sky.

"Sapphire," Moon scolded. "Please turn the sky back to normal." Sapphire sighed but did as she was told. It was like that the whole day.

After hours of listening to Peril talk about what happened with her and Clay with excruciating detail, they finally arrived. Peril squealed happily and did a flip in the air. Winter couldn't hide his smile. It was nice how Peril wanted to see Clay so bad that she actually squealed aloud.

"Clay, Clay, Clay," she whispered. "Gosh, I am obsessed..."

"Yes. Yes you are," Winter snapped, trying to cover up his smile. Peril rolled her eyes but Winter knew that she saw right through him. The group landed but once they landed, a group of SkyWing soldiers started to surround them.

"What in the Moons?" Peril growled. "Do you know who I am?" She shot as the started to point their spears at her.

"Peril of the SkyWings you are hereby under arrest under the order of the Queen," a deep voice boomed. Winter turned his head in the direction of the voice. A tall strong (and old) SkyWing walked up to them. He was about as old as Ruby, maybe a few years older. It was Vermilion.

"What is the meaning of this?! Doesn't Queen Ruby know that I didn't kill those SkyWings?!" Peril shouted. "And even if she doesn't know that, I can easily escape. Spears don't hurt me," snapped Peril. Her tail was in the air and she was in a low crouch, prepared to fight.

"The fact that you know about the killings is enough evidence...besides the bodies and your...abilities," Vermilion spat. The look of disgust spread all over his snout.

"Unhand her!" Sapphire yelled.

"Excuse me?" Vermilion growled. His look of disgust went on Sapphire. All Winter wanted to do was to rip off that face from Vermilion's face. "Do you know who you are talking to? I am the

PRINCE of the SkyWings!"

"And I'm the Princess," Sapphire spat. The group, guards, and Vermilion looked at her like she lost her mind.

Vermilion burst into laughter. "A SandWing hybrid isn't a princess!" he laughed. Now Winter wanted to kill Vermilion.

"She can be if her father was a prince," Sapphire hissed.

"Who is your father? It's definitely not my nephew Prince Cliff," Vermilion teased.

"You."

There was an awkward silence.

How Is This Possible?

"You," Sapphire growled. There was an awkward silence. Winter turned his snout in Sapphire's direction and gaped. *I know she is part SkyWing but...she's royalty,* Winter thought. *How is that possible?!* Vermilion looked like he had a heart attack. Moon gasped and Qibli's jaw dropped. Peril was stunned, Turtle was confused, and Kinkajou was clapping and cheering.

"Yay! She found her father!" Kinkajou cheered. Sapphire looked pleased that Vermilion was shocked.

"Turbulence, take Peril to the dungeons. You six, follow me," Vermilion ordered, pointing at Winter, Kinkajou, Turtle, Moon, Qibli, and Sapphire.

"Hey! Get your spears away from me!" Peril snapped, lashing her tail around. Her claws were extended and her eyes were narrowed. "I didn't do anything wrong!" Peril hissed.

"Peril," a monotone voice said. Peril turned her head to the new dragon that joined them. It was Clay. His warm brown eyes now seemed cold and sorrowful. "Peril...don't fight it," he whispered.

Peril's piercing blue eyes looked at Clay painfully. She lowered her tail and relaxed. Her smile that she had on before was now gone and was replaced by sorrow. Peril followed the soldiers unwillingly but growled when the Soldiers pointed their spears at her. *Why is she following them? Peril didn't do anything wrong,* Winter thought.

"Clay? Why would you do that?" Qibli asked once Peril left with tears in her eyes. Clay looked at the floor angrily.

"You might want to see this," He whispered.

"I thought we had to go with Vermilion," Winter spat. *This is the first time I have ever stood up to Peril willingly.*

"Can go if you want but...I would suggest that you follow me," Clay hissed. Winter shrank back and sighed.

"Winter, you should go with him...I'll be okay," Sapphire whispered in Winter's ear. Winter looked at Sapphire painfully but nodded.

"I can go with her if that's okay," Kinkajou said. Sapphire nodded and then Kinkajou and Sapphire left with Vermilion.

"Let's get this over with," Winter grumbled. The rest of the group lifted off and flew deep into the castle. As they walked into a room full of light, Winter, Moon, Qibli, and Turtle say a terrible thing. They saw a dead body. And it was killed by burns...burns in the shape of talons. *It was Peril...*Winter thought. But that's impossible.

"You see! Peril had to go to the dungeon!" Clay said. "I can't believe I actually trusted her!" Clay cried, gripping his snout. "I should have listened to Tsunami, Glory, Starflight, and everyone!" he growled.

Winter didn't pay attention to Clay, his focus was on the body... How could this happen? It looked like this happened recently. *But Peril never left our side. So, who is this new threat?*

Vermilion

Sapphire's POV

Sapphire followed Vermilion to his courters in SkyWing palace with Kinkajou trailing behind her. She didn't care that Kinkajou was with her but she wanted Winter by her side. Winter. The handsome, grumpy, honorable, brave, curious, and sarcastic IceWing that Sapphire loved. *Uh, did I say love? I mean...like,* Sapphire thought. Kinkajou's scales kept changing from blue to yellow.

Sapphire didn't know a lot about the RainWing colors. She just knew that blue meant curious, red meant angry, yellow meant happy, green meant fear, and white meant pain. She only knew these since her mother was a doctor after the war. Her mother, Jackel, worked with RainWings, SandWings, and MudWings more so Sapphire saw a lot of white on RainWings. *I miss Mom*, she thought. *Going on an adventure without her seems so...wrong.*

Before Sapphire went to Jade Mountain Academy, Sapphire and Jackel traveled all around Pyrrhia and helped cure dragons. They had so many adventures. One of them involved a dragonflame cactus. But that mostly because a Moonhead dragon decided to breathe fire near one.

Sapphire was so caught up in her thoughts that she didn't realize that they were already in Vermilion's courters. It was strange actually. She never thought that she would ever see her father's room. In fact, she thought she would never meet her father. The room was pretty dull. It only had a bed a chest for all of Vermilion's things and a mirror. But the ceiling of the room was really tall. There was also a large diamond-shaped window -- the window we flew through to get in his room.

Kinkajou landed on the stone floor and shook her wings joyfully. "I have a few questions," Vermilion said, pacing around the room. "The first question...how am I father?" he asked.

"Well, it's simple," Sapphire grinned. *Hmm, I have an idea...*she thought mischievously. "First there is a mommy and a daddy dragon-"

"I know HOW I just need to know WHEN," Vermilion said, cutting me off. His snout had a disgusted face plastered on his snout.

"I don't know how," Kinkajou peeped, her scales turning blue. Sapphire's eyes widened in surprise and so did Vermilion.

"Um...Queen Glory will tell you..." Sapphire muttered. Kinkajou said okay and then dropped it. Thank the moons because if she didn't then they would have a REALLY awkward conversation. "Anyway, do you remember that night when you met Jackel...she was fixing the doors. You met her and...well...took advantage of her," she growled. Vermilion looked confused like he didn't what I was talking about.

"That's not what I remember," Vermilion whispered. "I remember Jackel...I will never forget her. She was my first and only love," he said. *I'm confused...Vermilion loved Mom,* Sapphire thought.

"Ooo, plot twist!" Kinkajou whispered loudly.

"What do you mean?" Sapphire wondered.

"When Mother was talking to Burn I met Jackel. I immediately fell in love with her. She was everything to me. Jackel was a lot like you...she was smart, feisty, and hilarious," Vermilion said, sighing happily as if he was reliving a memory. "We kept meeting secretly in the gardens because Burn hated cross-breeding. But one day...Jackel disappeared. She never wrote a letter or showed her face in the Sand Kingdom again," Vermilion sighed. "And trust me, I looked."

Sapphire felt as though someone just punched her stomach and left her on the floor to die. Why did her mom lie to her? She thought that they had a good connection. She thought that Jackel would never lie to her. How could Jackel lie about something this huge? That story was like the base of her dragonethood. Being told that the story was a lie...was like being told that your dad died when

you were a baby and the person you call father is actually a random stranger.

"Also...what's your name?" Vermilion wondered. *My whole life was a lie*, Sapphire thought.

Bring Him In

Bear's POV

He took a shaky breath, his talons shaking like an earthquake was happening. His wings, tired from the long flight. Bear looked at the large cave and stepped in. Inside that cave somedragon he had to save. Someone that he loved very much. The cave was pitch black, it scared him for a bit.

"Bear, did they arrive in the Sky Kingdom," boomed a loud voice.

"Yes," he responded.

"Good...the plan is working," chuckled the voice. "Soon...that pesky little group of dragonets will pay for what they did. They will lose everything and everyone they love. And the first one to fall will be Peril..."

"What about Topaz?" Bear wondered nervously. "You said you'll let her go if I do what you want! And I lead the group to the Sky Kingdom!"

"But Bear...I still need you for someone," the voice said, Bear had a feeling that the dragon was smirking.

"For who?" Bear scowled.

"Why, Sapphire of course."

Night

[image]

Peril's POV

Peril paced angrily. *Why would Clay let these pea-brained guards bring me here?* Peril was angry at Clay. But most of all she was heartbroken. She thought that Clay loved her. She thought that Clay will never turn on her. Apparently, she was wrong.

Suddenly, she heard a few dragons walking towards her. Peril's wings let off a little glow so she was able to see the shape of the dragons. Most of them were SkyWings but there were two MudWings. One was wearing armor and the other was wearing nothing. Peril wasn't close enough to identify them but she felt like she knew both of them.

"Peril?" the second MudWing called. *I know that voice,* Peril thought. Her heart started jumping around like a dragonet. But Peril had to remind herself that Clay betrayed her. Suddenly, her heart sunk like a scroll in water.

"What do you want, Clay?" hissed Peril. *Wow, that hurt me so much more than it hurt him*, Peril thought sadly. Clay didn't wince. He didn't even flinch.

"I just came to see if broke the bars yet," Clay whispered. Peril knew that she could easily leave this prison, but Clay's voice kept echoing in her head. He would say something like, I always knew that you were evil...I was just too naive to see it. *Stupid voice,* Peril growled.

"Well, I've changed the past two years," she snapped. "I'm not Scarlet's psychopath murderer anymore," Peril fumed.

"Sure," Clay said sarcastically. Peril winced. Clay was NEVER sarcastic with her. "I'll believe it when you stop killing innocent dragons," he hissed.

"What do you mean? I haven't been killing dragons! I haven't killed dragons since I saved you from that stupid dragonbite viper," Peril growled, confused. What was Clay talking about? Peril hasn't killed in a WHILE. But Clay wouldn't say what he said unless it was true...was someone else out there?

"Don't play dumb!" Clay shouted. "I examined the bodies! They have your talon prints all over them! Isn't that right, Turbulence?" Clay asked. A SkyWing with dark red scales and an orange undertone nodded his head.

"I didn't kill anyone!" Peril cried. "If I did then I would NEVER show my face to you since I would be SO ashamed," Peril yelled. Clay stopped talking for a minute. His face showed a little regret. But then it was replaced with his angry face. Peril hated that face. She hated when Clay was angry and sad. She loved his happy face. His curious face. His oblivious face. His protective face. His empathic face. But she always hated when he was in pain. Right now it was a mix of both pain and anger.

"Peril. You are going to stay here until...until..." Clay trailed off, turning his snout. "Crimson, you tell her...I don't think I can..." with that, Clay turned around and left Peril in that-that-that *cage*.

"Clay!" Peril sobbed. "Clay!" she cried, steam rising from her eyes.

"Every dragon that you killed will be one year so....eleven years," Crimson said without any sympathy or emotion. With that, all the dragons that were on the other side of the cell turned around and walked out, leaving Peril angry and heartbroken.

Is this what a broken heart feels like, Peril thought as she paced again. *Is this what Starflight felt when Sunny rejected him? Did he feel this unbearable pain? Did he feel the need to cry himself to sleep? Did he feel the need to fly around and shed tears? Did he feel the need to carve out his heart with his own claws so that he won't be able to feel this indescribable pain? Because I do,* Peril thought, steam rising. Peril walked over to the small window that she had in her dim prisoner cell. Peril looked at the sky and saw all of the three moons full. *Happy Hatching Day, Clay,* Peril thought sadly. She then curled up into a ball and started crying like there was no tomorrow.

Winter's POV

Winter stared at the night sky. He never really noticed how beautiful it was until now. After seeing that traumatizing body on the floor. Winter didn't know what to think about the way that dragon died. He died the same way Peril kills. But, Peril never left our side. *No. Even if I hate her with every scale on my body, I know that Peril doesn't kill anymore,* Winter thought.

Winter turned his head in Sapphire's direction. She was laying on the floor, drawing something. Winter scooted closer to her and looked over her shoulder. Sapphire was drawing an unfamiliar SandWing. "Who's that?" he whispered.

Sapphire jumped in fear and placed her talon on her chest. "W-Winter," Sapphire exhaled. "This is my mother, Jackel."

"Hmm, pretty good," Winter mused.

"What? Of course, it's good!" Sapphire grinned. "I have art skills in my blood," Sapphire smirked.

"So do I," Winter grinned. Sapphire looked him up and down and handed him a pencil that she found lying around. Winter stared at Sapphire then started drawing her. He moved his pencil the way her snout curves. After about twenty minutes, he was finished sketching Sapphire.

Sapphire leaned over Winter's shoulder and gasped. *Was she happy, surprise, or disgusted? I can't tell,* Winter thought anxiously. "It's, uh, I'm so beautiful," Sapphire whispered.

"That's the dragon I see," Winter murmured. Sapphire looked at Winter awe in her eyes. Their snouts were so close that it almost making Winter anxious for her to kiss him. But Sapphire pulled away once she realized how close they were. That hurt him.

"Wow, you really have an effect," Sapphire muttered.

"Thanks?" Winter asked, confused. Sapphire looked up and chuckled quietly.

"I mean you take my breath away," Sapphire whispered. "It's scary."

"Why is it scary?" Winter cooed.

"Because no one has ever made me feel this way," Sapphire murmured. "Well, that's not entirely true. There was this one guy, I was just a kid. But he left me heartbroken..." she trailed off. "It's just you're a lot like that guy...I don't want to get hurt again."

"I will *never* hurt you," Winter whispered.

"Ha, that's what he said," Sapphire growled to herself.

"I'm not him," Winter said, starting to get a little angry. But he calmed himself. Winter didn't want to be known as the guy who had a bad temper. Which was one of the reasons why he left school. Sapphire scooted closer to him and twined her tail around his, carefully avoiding his spikes.

A frenzy feeling radiated through his body. *Why did it feel nice to have Sapphire close by me,* Winter thought. Winter shook his head and focused on Sapphire. "I know your not," she sighed. "But how will I know that you won't hurt me?" she frowned.

"You don't," Winter whispered. "It's a leap of faith," he purred. Sapphire looked at him once more and pressed her snout against his. Winter felt...happy. For once, he felt happy. He felt like his soul just left his body and was dancing around. Winter felt like was complete. When Sapphire pulled away, she blushed.

"You make a convincing argument," she whispered, blushing so much you could mistake her for a SkyWing. Sapphire yawned then curled up into a ball next to him. Her warmth balanced out the ice. "Good night, Winter," she purred.

Winter curled up too so that Sapphire's back was against Winter's stomach. "Good Night, Sapphire," he yawned. And they slowly but peacefully drifted to sleep, knowing that they have a future together.

Moon's POV

Man, Winter is a GREAT kisser, Sapphire thought. Moon covered her snout with her talon to stop herself from laughing. Qibli obviously felt that. Qibli sat up and looked at Moon questionably. "Look," she whispered, tapping on Qibli's forearm.

Qibli looked up and saw Sapphire and Winter's snouts pressed together. Qibli raised his eye ridge and grinned. "Turns out Winter doesn't need my help after all," Qibli smirked.

"Oh be quiet," Moon chuckled. After watching the two sleep, Moon started to become annoyed. "Okay, now she's getting so excited that Winter likes her. It's a little annoying how she keeps thinking about that kiss," Moon said.

Qibli chuckled and twined his tail with hers. "Are you jealous that you don't have two boys pinning after you?" Qibli wondered, teasing but still curious

"Pft, no! I'm actually glad that Winter has moved on and that your bromance is saved. But sometimes dragon's thoughts can be REALLY annoying...so good night," Moon chuckled. Qibli grinned and laid back down.

"Good night, Moon," he whispered.

"Good night, Qibli," Moon smiled.

I Win

Bear's POV

"Peril lost everything. She lost her friends, Clay, and the trust of the queen," Bear whispered, taking off his armor that he used to disguise himself.

"Good," the voice said, satisfied.

"Now please let Topaz go," Bear whimpered.

"Nah Nuh, remember you have to show yourself to Sapphire so Sapphire will know that she lost her friends and her powers," the voice said.

"Actually, you might need to add Boyfriend to that list," Bear winced. Winter and Sapphire just became boyfriend and girlfriend..."

"WHAT?! That's not in the FUTURE!" the voice boomed. "No. No. No. NO!" it growled. "Alright change of plans...we're going after Turtle next...alright?"

"What about the plan changed?" Bear wondered.

"Everything," the voice fumed. "Now get out of my sight and ruin Turtle's life!"

The Sequel

Okay, Readers,

I know this story was short but all the stories for this series will be short since I will need to do different POVs. So...I hope you forgive me for making this short. But I hope you enjoyed this story. Here is a sneak-peak of the next book:

Turtle didn't know what he was reading. It made sense. But at the same time, it didn't. Why would Kinkajou write such a terrible letter to him? Well, it was written in her handwriting and she was being as sweet as possible...but why would she end it with him? *I thought things were going great,* Turtle thought sadly, tears sliding down his snout. First, Peril hated him. Then his mother didn't remember his name anymore or wanted anything to do with him. Now, this...what is happening?!

Anyway, I hope this makes you want to read the next one! Have a great day!

~Tsunamilion